

Weare Economic Development Committee Minutes - August 21, 2007

The meeting opened at 7:08pm

Present: Elizabeth McSweeney, Heleen Kurk, George Malette, Alice Morris, Art Siciliano, Jim Thompson. Visitor: Neal Kurk

Previous minutes were approved.

A synopsis of the latest meeting of the Weare Center Advisory Committee was given. WCAC will hold a special meeting on Sept. 6 to discuss zoning ordinances concerning Weare Center.

The focus turned to the sign ordinance which will expire next spring. A motion was made by Malette and seconded by Morris to amend the existing ordinance rather than start from scratch to write a new one. The question was raised and discussed as to whether it is better to list acceptable signs or prohibited signs. WEDC decided to list prohibited signs as that would allow greater flexibility for businesses. It was also decided to put all the pieces of the zoning ordinances pertaining to signs in one spot, rather than having them scattered about and duplicated.

The Planning Board would like a draft form of zoning changes by the Sept. 13. Siciliano volunteered to rewrite the existing sign ordinance (Article 34) to include all mentions of signs in the districts, to rewrite 34.4.1 and 34.4.2 to clarify various interpretations presented by WEDC members, to add the phrase "lit from the top of the sign" to specifications on sign lighting, to add that "all new and refurbished signs must conform to the latest standards", to delete the repeal date, and otherwise clean up language in the existing ordinance. Thompson will take this draft to the Planning Board on Sept. 13, with the understanding that it may be tweaked at the next WEDC meeting.

Other questions raised were about permits for signs (Thompson will look into that) and temporary signs (to be temporarily tabled).

The next meeting will be on Sept 18.

The meeting adjourned 9:10.

Alice Morris, secretary